MORNING EDITION-FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1855.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Board of Aldermen,

Several acts of the Legislature, amongst which was an act to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Courts of General and Special Sessions of the Peace for the city and county of New York, were received and filed. PERITIONS.

Of the officers of the first division of New York State Militia, asking to have Hamilton square graded for the use of the military. Referred. Of parties interested in the matter of the extension of Candi street and widening Walker street.

THE NATIVITY OF THE POLICE OF NEW YORK-

Alderman Berrick offered the following:—

Alderman Berrick offered the following:—

Whereas, it has been reported in the newspapers, that Stephen H. Branch. Esq., the resowned traveller on the Isthinus of Parama whes, miraculous eccaps from the voracity of the tree climbing silgators of Central America produced such a wonderful somation in this community several years since, has been employed as Secretary of the Investigating Committee of the Hort, when the summary several years since, mittee of the Hort, when the summary of the Investigating Committee of the Hort, when the summary of the Investigating Committee of the Hort, when the summary of the the summary of the Hort, when the summary of the third of the summary of the dog pound and other important matters relating to the Police Department; And whereas, there is an abundance of elercical talent employed in the confice of the Clork of this Board to supply the wants of all its committees; Therefore, Resolved, That the Chairman of the special committee employed in investigating matters connected with the Police Department be, and he is hereby, directed to report to this Board by what authority he has employed an outside secretary—but componential is to be allowed to Stephen H. Branch, Esq., the historian and traveller, for his services, and who is to pay the same.

Aldermas ELY moved to atribe out the preamble, which after some debate, was carried, and the resolution was

resolution:—
Resolved, That the special committee, consisting of Aldermen briggs, C. H. Tucker and Hoffmire, appointed to consider the securacy of the report of the Chief of Police respecting the nativity, Ac., of policemen, be invested with full power to investigate the subject in question, and to exercise a discretionary power in the examination of witnesses as all matters connected with the mal-administration of the

of the subject.

After an animated debate, in which several members took part, the amendment was put, and lost by a vote of 10 to 12.

After an animated debate, in which several members took part, the amendment was put, and lost by a vote of 10 to 12.

The resolution of Alderman Briggs was then put and after debate lost by a vote of 10 to 6.

Alderman LORD on seconding the amendment, said he was satisfied that no benefit could arise from the investigation. So far as it had gone, its only effect was to bring the Beard into contempt in the eyes of tha whole community. It had, in fact, been carried to a ridiculous extent, and was an educat interference with the privogatives of the Police Bepartment.

Alderman Briggs (Sam) spoke in favor of the continuance of the committee. He characterized the report given by the Chief of Police as untruthful, and said that its fishity was shown by the investigation; the Chief had refused to produce the original vouchers. He (Alderman B.) was surprised that Alderman Bord should desire to quash the inquiry at its present stage.

Alderman Hoffmire, one of the committee, distlenged Alderman Briggs to point out one false statement in the report furnished by the Chief of Police. He (Alderman Hoffmire) had been astonished at the extraordinary counce pursued by the Alderman of the Thirteenth in committee.

Alderman Voormis saw no reason for offering the resolution, and he would move to lay the question on the table. Lost.

Alderman Kir was in favor of the continuance of the committee's investigation.

Alderman Williamson said that he had been Induced to offer the smewdiment because the questions put by the Committee were a diagrace to the members of this Beard.

Alderman Williamson said that he had been induced to effer the sinesiment because the questions put by the Committee were a disgrace to the members of this Beard.

Alderman Ely again spoke at considerable length in favor of the investigation, as he thought that something important was about to be effected; because such an effort was made to quash it. He alluded to the present state of the city, and said there was never so much crime on the records as there has been since the administration of Mayor Wood.

Alterman Kelly said—I trust, sir, that the Committee will be discharged. This investigation has gone on until this body has been brought into disgrace by the manner in which it has been conduced. The object of the geath man of the Thirdeenth ward in referring his resolution, was, no doubt, to prove, if he could, that the majority of the police department are foreigners. In this he has been mistaken; but he feels grieved at his mistake, and which to prove, if he could, that the majority of the police department are foreigners. In this he has been mistaken; but he feels grieved at his mistake, and whether it, also, because he is prejudiced against all the human race, with the exception of those who were born here. I trust that there i liberality erough left among the members to give to every man, whether he is native or adopted all the merit into belongs to him. One word, Mr freeddent, in reply to the emphatic speaker of the Seventeenth and, he invariably of late has taken the opportunity to abuse the Hon. Fernando Wood and his administration of this city's government; whether this arises from malice or political enunty I am unable to say; he says that crime has increased and the police department is no better now than it was previous to his (the Mayor) taking the administration of the city. Why sir he is the most indefatiga le mayor this city ever had; he is an innor to it and deserve the credit oversy well disposed clizen, which he has, notythatanding the assertions of the genitament of the script of the polic

who has in fact, a standing army of foreigners under him, and who has driven ever; American from the force by enceavoring to put them in teggery or harness with brass buttoos.

Alderman i.o. was in favor of closing the commistee, as its investigation was calculated to demoralize the force under the control of the Chief of Police, by having their superior officer brought before an Alderman for the purpose of leing smabbed. He (Alderman In.) repudiated the idea of excluding adopted foreigners from the police force, and said that there were some persons who were always talking of their be ng Americans; he never boasted of where he was born; he did not feel it necessary to declare whether he was a Frenchman, an irishman, a German or an American. But there are some men who always boast of the honor of being Americans, because they lacked all the qualifications of a mon. He (Alderman I.) saw in this matter an evident movement on the part of certain whig politicians of this city to make the police force a body subservient to them—to control an influence the Fresidential election of ide.

Alderman Darak did not care who was on the police if he levals a root man but as to the investigation, he thought it better to let it proceed, to show who was wrong and who was right.

Alderman Hearness said that notwithstanding the Cistinguished Scortary of the committee.

Alderman Hearness said that actwithstanding the Cistinguished Scortary of the committee. He franch) having come into the Board-room just now and shook his first at him (Alderman H) for offering, what he (Branch) termed, a blackquard preamble—and no doubt le (Alderman H), would be kicked before he left the Park—yet he would continue to press the discontinuance of the committee. There was nothing he had no care of the hear was captain North's tailor. All these questions were foreign to the investigation.

Alderman Howand spoke in favor of dissolving the committee. He did not care whether the Chief of folice was torn in Ingland, Ireland or Wester, and it was brought u

the contracts for repairing the public lamps, was ordered on file.

On motion of Alderman Haint the report of the Committee on Clearing Streets, recommending that this Beara take roaction, was called from the table.

The multist of the fold of the Life in the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies not to sell or commissioner of Repairs and Supplies not to sell or consume of the other wine of the old City Hall until further orders, was adopted.

Several papers from the Rard of Councilmen were referred to the respective committees.

Alderman How any moved to concur with the Councilmen to repeal the craimance relative to the sale of Sunday. Inner. Lost for want of a constitutional vote. Adjourned to Konday.

THE NEW CITY HALL. A special meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening, to take into consideration the report of the Committee on Repairs and copplies, submitting plans and specifications, &c., for a new City Hall.

tation to the wants of the city. It may be as well to take here some of the general features of those plans. They are as follows:—

A building on Chambers street, if ree stories above the lasen ent. with wings extending on Broadway and Centre street, which shall be harmonious in their architectural proportions, organisms and elevations, and at the same time in srehitectural harmony with the present Hall.

The front on Chambers street will be 529 feet in length, and the wings on Broadway and Centre street, will be 355 feet in length, and to extend within 40 feet of the front line of the present Hall; the inner wall of these wings will be about 25 feet from the ends of the same; and the new struer, with the present Hall, will thus form a quadrangle, with an open court in the centre between the buildings. The dimensions of this court will be about 190 feet by 255, and will be approached by sidewalks and carriageways between the wings and the present City Hall.

The wing on Broadway will stand about 55 feet from the railing; the front on Chambers street will be about 61 feet from the railing.

It is intended to provide a sufficient number of large rooms on the inner range of the building, overlooking the court, for the accommodation not only of the law courts, but for all other kinds of business where quistanss and seclusion from the bustle of the streets is absolutely indispensable. It is not the propose of its creetion, and seclusion from the bustle of the streets of asfety and corresponding at angements and appointments, the attracture shall completely answer the purposes of its creetion, and be a safe depository for the immense mass of records which will be placed in the archives of the department. In regard to the material city for the immense mass of records when will be placed in the archives of the dominities are in favor of the Leon marble, giving as reasons for thair selection, the fine quality of working up this marble from the rough block.

The committee family recommended for adoption the following the

The committee nhally recommended for adoption the following resistion,—
Recolved, I the Board of Aldermon concur, that the plans and specifications for a new City Hall, presented by Messrs. Albert Gilbert, Thomas R. Jackson and Heary I. Stuart, be and the same are herely approved, and the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies is instructed to advortise for proposals for the erection of raid building, according to law, and send the same to the Common Council for confraction.

Council mann Bakays moved to insert in the resolution the words "and adopted" after the word "approved." Carried.

Councilman McCarill moved to insert, "the said City Hall to be built on Madison square." Lost, on a division, by 41 to 6.

It was then moved and carried that the following words te added to the resolution—"said building to be erected in the Park adjoining the City Hall."
Councilman Convower moved to ctrike out the words "and specifications" in the resolution, in order that the resolution deciding on the location for the new City Hall, and the plans of Mesers Gilbert, &c., might be adopted, and the adoption or amendment of their specifications be left open for discussion. Carried.

Councilman Purpor moved to amend the resolution by triking out "the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies," and inserting in lieu thereof "three Commissioners" The smendment was lost.

Councilman Convoven them noved, "that when the committee rise, it report in favor of accepting the report, and adopting the resolution as amended." Carried.

The specifications were then taken up in sections, and were adepted with some amendmenta.

The committee rose at a late hour and reported progress, after which the Board adjourned.

Supreme Court-Ofreuit.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE SHARES—HEAVY VERDICT

APRIL 19.—The case of Munn against P. T. Barnum— an action for a breach of contract—was resumed and concluded yesterday afternoon. It will be recollected that the defendant, who had then been recently elected President of the Crystal Palace Association, contracted with Orson D. Munn and three others to purchase the stock held by them, amounting to two hundred and twendy-three shares, at the price of seventy-on dollars per share, on concition that Munn would release the directors from all liability, and consent to a dissolution of the injunction which they had obtained. The object of the present action is to recover the stipulated price for the shares referred to in said contract. The defendant sets up insufficient tender of the stock to him, and misrepresentations as to the quantity owned by the plaintifis previous to the sale.

The testimony being closed, and the case submitted, the Judge charged the jury that for the purposes of this case he had ruled that the tender was sufficient, and that this question would come up for review before the Court below. The remaining question in the case, as to whether the defendant should have a credit of \$5 a share, was also submitted to the jury, who found a verdict on that point in favor of the defendant, and gave hun credit for that amount. Verdict for the plaintif for \$15, 234 55, to which the Court added one per cent extra allowance under the code. with Orson D. Munu and three others to purchase the

Pefore Hon. Judge Campbell and a Jury.

APRIL 18.—Eleazer Millard against Hazard Knowles.—
This was an action brought by the plaintiff as assignee of one Truman Cook, to recover from the defendant for services rendered the latter by Mr. Cook, between the lat of August, 1852, and the lat of June, 1854, in de signing, drawing, supervising, and otherwise acting as consulting engineer, in the manufacture and sale of cer-tain patested improvements in saw mills, which services, it was alleged by the plaintiff's counsel, Messra. Wm C. Noyes and R. W. Townsead, were worth \$2,000 a year, amounting in all to \$4,100 66. There was also another claim set up in the complaint, for moneys lent and ad-vanced by Mr. Cook to the detendant, for the use of the latter, amounting to \$495 47. On the 15th day of July, 1854 Mr. Cook assumed the above the latter to the use of claim set up in the complaint, for moneys lent and advanced by Mr. Cook to the defendant, for the use of the latter, amounting to \$495 \$47\$. On the 18th day of July, 1855, Mr. Cock assigned the above claims to the plaintiff in this action, who now brings this suit. Mr. J. T. Brady, on behalf of the defendant, moved to dismiss the complaint, on the ground that the plaintiff had failed to prove any employment of Mr. Cook, by the defendant, and also that the assignment of the claim was not properly proven. The Court denied the motion, and Mr. Brady opened the defence to the jury, by stating that our singgish ancestors were not half as smart as we are; that under the old style of doing business, a man could not assign a claim, and then offer himself as a witness in the case, to swear it through. This ingenious contrivance was left for us to discover and carry out into practical effect. The answer in this case admits that Mr. Cook did perform work, labor, and rervices for the defendant, (as alleged in the complaint,) in introducing and selling an investion of the defendant envices defendant agreed to pay the board of Cook and his wife, and all his necessary expenditures; and if the invention turned out to be a successful case, Cook was to receive, by way of further compensation, such there of the proceeds of the sale of said invention, such there of the proceeds of the sale of said into a contract to sell and put up one of his patent awmilis in the city of New Orleans, and was to receive for the right to use his sald invention, in six of the Southern States, 865, 000—provided the said mill to be erected at New Orleans, performed successfully. That Mr. Cook agreed to go to Now Orleans and erect the mill, and use his best endeavors to make the said mill to be erected at New Orleans, performed successfully. That Mr. Cook and the defendant thought he had earned. In pursannee of said understanding, the defendant entered to do, and the defendant on thought the said mill to be erected at New Orleans, performed successfully

Defore Hon. Judge E. P. Cowles.

TRIALS POSTFONED—FIRST CASE OF MURDER REMITTED TO THE SESSIONS—MORRISSEY AND HYLER DISCHARGED ON \$10,000 EACH.

APRIL 19—Charge of Aron.—At the sitting of the Court this morning the case of Moses Myer, charged with aroon in the first degree (penalty death), and set down

Court this morning the case of Moses Myer, charged with arson in the first degree (penalty death), and set down for this day, was postponed to next Monday, in consequence of the trial of Lawson being still on.

Charge of Murder.—The trial of William Scharfenberg was postpored to Wednesday next.

Alleged Murder of O'Brien.—The case of Joseph Hall, charged with the murder of Wm. O'Brien, was, at the request of Mr. Busteed, the prisoner's counsel, remitted to Sessions for trial. This is the first case under the new law giving the Sessions jurisdiction of indictments for murder. Hall will be tried before Recorder Jas. M. Smith, Jr.

MORRISSEY AND HYLER DISCHARGED ON BAIL.

The District Attorney and the Court having doubt as to \$20,000 beilt being (as regards the circumstantes of the parties charged) excessive, and comidering that it amounted to a denial of the motion on their behalf—the bail of Hyler, Van Peit and Lian was reduced to \$10,000 cach, the same as that of Morrissey and Irvis.

In the course of the morning bail was entered into for Morrissey and Hyler. Isaac Haylar, of 31 Dominick street, New York, and James Conway, of Flatbush, Long Islands, juntifying in the sum of \$5,000 each for John Hyler; and Wm. Marrin, of 25 John street, Brooklyn, justifying in the sum of \$5,000 for Morrisey.

THE ALLEGED MURDER OF O'NEIL.

The Court proceeded with the trial of Peter M. Lawson for the murder of O'Neil. The jury found the prisoner guilty of masslaughter in the fourth degree.

Pour Venezuela Correspondence.

Pour Venezuela Correspondence.

Pour Camalo, March 50, 1855.

Politics and Irade.

In regard to the political affairs of the country there is nothing new to communicate. Gen. Jose Indea Moragas scems to be firmly seated in the Presidency, and from the present prospect there is reason to believe that he will hold on until the end of his term of four years, commencing the 20th of January last.

Business is quite active at a present, as we are near in the midst of the coffee or peason. Coffee of good groun qualities can be obtained at 104,ca 205,c. the carriency. Hides, 105,cc. a 165,c., ta much demand. Indige, sone in earliet. Cocos, 5°0 a \$22.75 per 1121bt.

THE PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

THE PANIC AMONG THE RETAIL LIQUOR SELLERS.

The sale of liquor, it is asserted, since the passage of the Probibitory law, has been enormous. Never was trade so brisk. Moderate drinkers indulge immoderately, and there is every prospect that the temperance law will

be inaugurated most intemperately.

But notwithstanding the prosperity of the liquor traffic there is dismay and construction among the dealers. Herstofore they have been unable to realize the disastrous effects to their business of a rigid enforcement of the law; but the near approach of the expiration ment of the law; but the near approach of the expiration of their leases, and the publicly pronounced determination of Mayor Wood to execute the law, because it is a law, regardless of consequences, has produced wide-spread distrust through all the ramifications of this immence business; and consequently, the more timid dealers have made preparations to close their stores, and enter some other employment. The following sign is quite frament: quite frequent:— occoss cocossos cocossos cocossos

THIS STORE TO LET.

Inquire within. In a walk through the Fifth, Eighth, Fourteenth, Tenth, Eleventh and Thirteenth wards, yesterday, we counted no less than sixty liquor establishments with the above sign. We saw the following inscription in several windows, in badly susped German text:—

LAGER BIER UND WEIN HALLE. Zu Vermiethen.

The Germans, by the way, are determined to evade the law, by changing their bier shops into provision and segar or "Rauchtabac" stores, with a recess in the rear for the sale of liquor. Thus, while groceries, and pipes and snull that is to be succeed at, are sold in the front, the rear will be appropriated to larger bier and good liquor that is not to te sneezed at.

It is estimated that ever two thousand stores are to let, in which liquor is now sold. Of course it is uspless to advertise them as liquor stores, as, by that ritle, there would be no applicants; and accordingly, by referring to the advertising columns of the Harano, the reader will find any quantity of eligible establishments, auitable for dry goods, provision stores, &c., there noticed.

The effect on the laws extensions.

suits ble for dry goods, provision stores, &c., there noticed.

The effect on the large restaurants—Taylor's, Thompson's, &c.—will not be so disastrous as most people magize. They will reap the benefit of the stoppage of the oyster dealers and smaller Fremch confectioners, who depend greatly on their receipts from the sale of liquor to pay their reut and clear expenses.

It is uscless to deny the evil effect this law has had upon the prospects of ousiness men. Just when the cry of hard times was dying out, and our citizens were looking forward to an improvement in business prospects, this law has failen upon us like a thunderbolt spreading confusion and dismay in every direction. The mischief thas played with the price of property is evidenced by the sale of property which took place on Wednesday in Wall street, where lots were sold for far less than usual. And thus, perhaps, is but the beginning of the end.

MEETING OF THE BREWERS OF NEW YORK. A private meeting of the brewers of the city was held last night at the Carlton House, to decide what steps should be taken by this fraternity in view of the en forcement of the Maine law. The meeting was attended by about thirty persons. Upon motion the meeting was called to order by appointing M. P. Reid, Esq., to the chair; and P. Ammerman, Esq., Secretary. After some speaking by various gentlemen, a committee of five was appointed to confer with the Liquor Dealers' Association of the Westchester and Astor House, and to report back to this body the result of this conference at a future meeting.

LAGER BIER VERSUS THE PROHIBITORY
LIQUOR LAW.

The Germans of Dutch Town—a name by which a pertion of the outskirts of Williamsburg is dignified—hell tion of the outskirts of Williamsburg is dignified—hell a meeting last night in Military Hell, to protest against the new liquor law, and to take preliminary steps for the organization of a society similar to those which have been formed in this city. There were about five hundred persons present, and the expression of foeling against the law was very warm, and sometimes violunt. Air. Stehlin presided, hir. Tieme officiating as Secretary, Several speeches were made, all in Garman, and all denouncing the law as despotic in the extreme, and an outrage on individual rights. It was finally decided to form a permanent organization, which should co-operate with the societies of liquor deelers in this city, by means of delegates to be appointed at a future meeting. Subscriptions will be raised to defray any expenses that may attend their opporition to the law, which they have expressed their determination to oppose to the atmost. Regular weekly xectings are to be held hereafter.

OPINION OF ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES AUTHORIZED BY THE ACT TO ADJUDI-CATE THEREON.

The law regulating the sale of intextcating liquor, as it is termed in this State, whatever the Legislature may have intended, does not, in fact, it would appear, proor malt l'quor. The prohibitory section (sec. 1) says:-

fee. 23. Intextical liquor and liquor as used in this act shall be construed to extend to and include alothol, distilled and mait liquors, and all liquors that can intexteate, and all dragged liquors, part of which is alcolol, distilled or malt liquor.

In common parance, wherein we often substitute

account can be an all dragged liquors, part of which is alcolol, cistilled or malt liquor.

In common parance, wherein we often substitute effect for cause, or connect them togshier, we understand by the words an "intexteating liquor," a liquor which has been the cause of intextication, or which has the rower to intexticate, as an effect produced by the drinking.

The declaratory part of the act announces the will and mandale of the legislature, and expressly declares that intexticating liquor shall not be sold. By this we are also to understand, as a fuller description, "all liquors that can intexticate."

It is apparent, from the use of these terms, that the Legislature has adopted language which describes the effect produced by liquor siter drinking it, as inhoricating, which it couples with liquor itself, naming it "intexticating liquor," and we can only regard this effect as the criterion by which we are to determine the liquor proscribed.

It has selected this manner of description rather than the language of the problibitory laws of other States. Those laws asy—for instance, Pennayl ranks.—"It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, or keep for sale, any vinous, spirituous, mailt or brewed liquor, or any admirturent thereof." This description is sample, and plainly understand in the terms of New York had made such an enactment, there would have been no difficulty in understanding its meaning. The article proscribed is here pounded out by the process of manufacture—no matter whether it is used and intoxicates or not. It is not named intoxicating liquor, or liquor that can intoxicating liquor, or liquor that can intoxicating liquor, or liquor that can intoxicating liquor, or high or that can intoxicating liquor prohibited, that to command in the sale of liquor prohibited, that to constitute an offere what for experience of

more.

As one named in the act to adjudicate thereon, L have considered it expedient to express these views concoming it, in order to correct what appears to be erromanus opinions in relation thereto.

A MAGISTRATE.

Two capital trotting races, came off, yesterday-one at

Meteorological Intelligence.
STRUCK BY LIGHTNING IN WILLIAMSBU

One MAN INJURED.

On Wednesday foreneous, about half-past eleven o'clock, during the rain storm, the house No. 97 South Ninth street, occupied by Mr. James Acker, was struck by lightning. The fluid passed down from the roof, through the side of the ouse, into the Mahen, making a hole through the wall similar to that of a large bullet. Mr. Acker, who was sitting in the room, was knocked insensible. Drs. Walle and Colt were called the and on examination, ascertained that the current in, and, on examination, ascertained that the current took effect on the right side, passing down the leg, under the foot, and from thence escaped by bursting the leather from the sole of the boot on each side. Mr. Acker was able to walk about yesterday afternoon, and will soon recover.

leasher from the sole of the boot on each side. Mr. Acker was able to walk about yesterday afternoon, and will soon recover.

THE DABK DAY AND THE STORM IN THE INTERIOR.

[From the Rochester American, April 19.]

We had the "reign of darkness" yesterday morning. A thunder storm which had been hanging in the West all night and growling hoarsely, came on very suddenly about 5½ o'clock in the morning. A cloud heavy with blackness came on from the West, bringing with it a darkness that could be felt. The rain was falling furiously, accompanied by thunder and vivid lightning. Hall also fell in large quantities. The halistones were of every size, from that of shot, up to that of walnuts. They rattled against the windews, causing much alarm for fragils glass, but as they fell almost vertically, they did little or no damage. A half an hour after the storm was over, the hall stones still laid upon the grass. Altogether it was a very severe and remarkable storm.

The storm was severe in other parts of the county. At Breckport, we learn that the hallstones measured six inches and a quarter in circumference. A valuable horse belonging to Mr. J. Sparling was (rightened, broke lrove, and ran titl file dropped dead. Sharpstein's omnibus was at the railroad station awaiting the care, and the horses ran away, breaking the carriage to pieces. No person was on board. There was great destruction of glass in the village. Every pane to be had in the stores was bought up by glasiers to repair damages, and two dealers came to this city for more.

In Clarkson, one mile north of Brockport, a like scene was presented. Fences were lifted up by the violence of the wind and carried away. Trees were uprooted or broken by the storm. The glass on the exposed side of the houses was nearly all smashed out. It is estimated that in the clurch at Clarkson alone, it will cost from 860 to \$70 to repair broken glass.

We have also like news frem the village of Rush. Mr. E. J. Galentine informs us that some nailatones were 6½ inches in circumference, w

A BUILDING DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING - VERY WARM WEATHER, ETC. BOSTON, April 19, 1855.

A violent thunder storm passed over Newbury post last evening. A large building on Caldwell's wharf was fired by lightning and destroyed. Several persons were rendered senseless by the shock, but no lives were lost.

BALLIMORE, April 19, 1855.

The weather here is very warm. The thermometer atouces at 82 degrees in the shade.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1855.

The weather is quite warm to-day, with a pleasant breeze. The mercury rose, at half past 12 o'clock, to 86 34 degrees in the shade.

The thermometer now stands at 82 degrees in the

MORE OF THE STREET CLEANING MACHINES. The operations of the street cleaning machines are evidently giving the city a more decent and healthy appearance. The Mayor received a communication at his office yesterday from Messrs. Smith, Seckel & Co., giving

This certainly looks very encouraging, and speaks volumes in favor of the adoption of these machines as a substitute for the old logs system of manual labor. There is still, however, a great deal to be done, as macy streets in different parts of the city still remain in a very fifthy condition. It is to be absed that, for the sake of the general good, these also will be attended to by the proper authorities.

MAYOR WOOD'S BADGE OF MERIT.

The new medal got up by Mayor Wood at his own personal expense, and intended as a reward or mark of distinction for those among the policemen of New York, who may, by the faithful and fearless performance of

tinction for those among the policemen of New York, who may, by the faithful and fearless performance of their duties, reader themselves deserving of it, was exhibited yesterday. The medal is manufactured of pure silver, and represents simply an American eagle, with outspread wings, surmounting a shield beautifully adornee with the stars and stripes. On a band passing diagonally across the shield, is inscribed—Partuns of Merico—and on a ribbon held in the bill of the eagle, is engaven the motio—Frat Justitia, si fercat cashum. The name of the policeman, fortunate enough to have it presented to him, will be put upon the sack of the medal. The Mayor seems to think that this will have a very benedicial effect upon the police, by inciting town to greater vigilance, and causing them to take a deeper interest in the public safety. There can be no reasonable doubt of the lact. Heretofore there has been no reward for great services performed by policemen, and to that fact alone may be ascribed the utter negligence and distegard of duty which has been a distinguishing feature in their characters. Now, we trust, that a new state of things will be inaugurated, and that the praiseworthy efforts of our energete Mayor, for the protection of the lives and property of the citizens of thing great metropolite, will be attended with success.

ALLEGED HOTEL ROBBERY.

A man named Henry Wilson Peckham was arrested yesterday and brought before Justice Osbern, at the Mayor's office, cherged by Andrew Perrine with having or minitted a robbery on said Perrine, at Mr. James Christopher's hotel, No. 164 Vesey street. It seems, from the statement of Perrine, that about 12 o'clock at night, while quietly reposing in his bed, he was awakened by hearing some one in his room handling his clothes, and that thereupon he arose and asked the percen what he was doing there, upon which said person cantiously slipped out of the room. Mr. Perrine swears that the said person was about the size and appearance of said Peckham. After the alleged rooble ha

The following in large handbills were posted up in various parts of the late Williamsburg,—
Union and handon; All democrate without distinction, who are favorable the united action of the party, on the common democratic planters, are invited to attend at the Pacific Shades, No. 30 south heventh street, on Thursday, April 19th, at Sociotok, P. M., for the purpose of forming a National Union Democratic Club, in and for the first Agentyly district of the country of Kings.

In accordance with this notice, as the opening of the meeting last evening, teenty-three persons were present, echsisting of office helders and others, ready and willing to rerve their country.

Ex-Addeman Harris Comstock was chosen, chairman, and Lepnty Shariff Gellett, secretary.

Frankiswitt moused to elect a Bresident of the Club. Same parson wheeled to know first on what plantors they were to come together?

Mr. Bowns said if the democratic party should join together in good faith, and let by gone baby gones, shake hands like men, and bury the hatchet, they coole carry the State bils fall, and sweep away all these whig isms.

Mr. Masshall wished to know if a fasion way to be on principle, or for the purpose of procuping some lacrative office for some person

Arguments sprung up, between Messrs. Bowie and Marshall, which caused some excitement between the two factions, and the Chairman aniled to order in vain. Mr. Bowie said Marshall came there to throw a firebrand in their mirst, and some person suggested the propriety of throwing Mr. Bowie down states. A general clamer arcse, and motions to adjourn were made. One man said those in favor of Keeping whigh in office had better leave the zoom, and as thus time the motion be adjourn was carried, and thay all left.

Walliamsburg Revve.

Williamaburg News.

Adam Fice, of Ewen street, accidentally fell into a cerapcol on Wadnesday, and was simmediately killed.

Orville H. Taylor, aged fourteen years, died the same night from the effect of trjurice received whital jumping in a saleyard.

Two German Jews bought a discased sow for mine rhillings, and on Wednesday they had its carcase all out up for enusage ment. They were arrested, but as they had not effected the stuff for wells, they were discharged. I got out for savenges.

City Politics,
IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE SOUT SHELL GENERAL
COMMITTES—A PLATFORM FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL
CAMPAIGN OF 1866-CUBA AT ANY COST—THE
ENOW NOTHINGS DENOUNCED—THE PROHIBITORY
LIQUOR BILL DITTO -ETC., ETC.
Pursuant to announcement, a special meeting of the
Soft Shell General Committee was held last night in Tammany Hall. Robert Keller, Chalternan verificient

many Hall, Robert Kelley, Chairman, presiding; and Alexander Ming acting as Secretary pro tem.

Byrnes, William Miner, Charles Fletcher, P. G. Maloney, Thomas Monroe, Patrick Coyle, Joseph Rose, John A. Kennedy, Patrick Mathews, William Fay, Alexander Ming, Thomas W. Adams, Daniel E. Delavan, Charles H. Ring, William D. Kennedy, Ashael Reed, Ash H. Bogert, Norman McLeod, James R. Steers, Hiram Engle, John Petiit, Conrad Swackhamer, William Henry, John Orr, Wm.Fisher Weeks, Thomas Boess, James Scatliff, John Van Buren, Daniel W. Morris, James Gregory, Jas. H. Crawford, Archibald Noble, John Cochrane, Manus

Van Buren, Daniel W. Morris, James Gregory, Jas. H. Crawford, Archibald Noble, John Cochrane, Manus Kelly, Lorenzo B. Shepard, Robert Kelley, John Murphy, Anson Herrick, Philip Foliey, William Dunham, William McConkey, William Murray, Andre Fromant, Benj. P. Fairchild, Dennis F. Roet, Nicholas Seagrist.

During the evening the discussions were quite animated on the resolutions, which will be found below, John Van Buren, John Cochrane, Shepard, Bosse and Kennedy participated in the discussion.

The Special Committee, consisting of John A. Kennedy, Alex. Ming and L. B. Shepard, to whom was referred the duty of drawing up a platform of the democracy, reported the following resolutions:—

1. Resolved, That while we deprecate the evils of war, and would recommend no act to be done by our government in violation of our duties as anation, yet that any solutions for American procesty, arrest of American fishers in control of the American fisher in control of the American fisher in control of the American fisher in control and the season of the fisher in control of the American fisher in control of the American fisher in control and the season of the fisher in control of the American fisher in control and the season of the fisher in control of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the province of the American fisher in control of the control of the American fisher in control of the american fisher in control of the american fisher in control of the control of the american control of the american fisher in control of the control

nameta powers, actived solely from the constitution, and the prants of power shown therein ought to be strictly construct by all the departments and agents of the government, and that it is inapptiont and dangerous to exercise doubtful constitutional powers.

7. Resolved, also, That the constitution does not confor upon the general government the power to commence and carry on a general agent as tem of internal improvements.

8. Resolved, also, That it is the daty of every branch of the government to enferce and practice the most rigid commy in conducting our public affairs.

9. Resolved, Therefore, that we are gratified by the vetoes of the Fresident of the "act making a grant of public lands to the several States for the hench of indigent insane persons," dated May 3, 1854; of the "act making appropriation for the repair, preservation and completion of certain public works heretefore commenced under anthority of law," dated August 4, 1854; of the "act by provide for the accreainment of claims of American elitaens for spoliations committed the heretefore commenced under anthority of law," dated August 4, 1854, of the "act by provide for the accreainment of claims of American elitaens for spoliations committed the heretefore of the weather appropriations for the accreainment of claims of American elitaens for spoliations committed the states and 1950," dated Feb. 17, 1855, and the 39th of June, 1854, and the 39th of June, 1854, and the 39th of June, 1854, and the 39th of June, 1855, and the 39th of June, 1856, and we trust that the sound done the constitutions for the property of the government, and who, in the prosecution of the property of the government, and who, in the prosecution of the property of the government, and who, in the prosecution of the property of the government, and who, in the prosecution of the property of the government, and who, in the prosecution of the property of the government and element of the property of the government, and under the constitution of the state of all of the state of

control of the barbarous ages even by the civilined man, the control of control of the control of control of control of control of the control of contr

New Custoss, House Order.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

With you oblige one of your constant readers by giving publicity to the following in your widely circulated paper, and thus benefit all importers and the public generally.

An order has lately been received from. Washington at the Custom House Department of this city, according to which no importer, broker or clerk, will hereafter be allowed to enter the public store and look after their goods which are sent there for inspection.

What will be the consequence of this abrendity? The employes will do just as they please, there being no one to control them or to oblige them to do their duty. Those importers who are "most liberal" will, of course, get their goods first, and the others will have to await the pleasure of the appraisers, &c.

Besides, in busy times, goods are often stored away in some obsours corner, and it may take weeks or even rouths before they are accidentally discovered.

That tatablishment should not be called "a public store" after this.

A Most Tremendous, Most Thra lling, Most Ecstatic, flost Appalling, Most The undering Announcement of a New Italian Opera Troupe for the Terrible City of New York.

OPENING OF THE ITALIAN OPERA SEASON, AT N. 'BLO'S GARDEN, WITH THE GREAT CANTATRICE, MAL'AME LA BABONESS ARNA DE LAGBANGE, ON MOND. LY, APRIL 30, 1855.

CARD.

GARDER, WITH THE GREAT CANTATRICE, MAY AREL 30, 1835.

CARD.

In announcing an emgagement of such great and undeniable importance as that of Madame is Baroness Anna de Lagrange, the managers, in justice both to the public and themselves, deem it necessary to offer a few observations, which, if duly appreciated, will, it is confidently hoped, justify them in producing a star of such acknowledged magnitude, when the recent pecuniary disappointment connected with "Dis Griss and Marie Enterprise," can hardly be forgotten.

Firally, several persons, in whose judg near every confidence an and should be placed, insist that "The Opera" (which in nearly every city in Europe is under the immediate superintendence and pecuniary patronage of the government.) cannot be firmly established in this country—where it is altogether a private association—unless the system of engaging one particular colabeity at an extraordinary price is abundened, and the business is carried on by a superior stock company only. The managers would gladly adopt a principle tending sematerially to reduce their expenses—it being well knows that the best stock company which could be procured would cost far less than one single artist of great regatation. But unfortunately for them, the public have had an opportunity of hearing, in rapid succession, the most celebrated vocal artists of the day. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers they have been accustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been ascustomed to extraordinary performers. They have been accustomed to extraordinary performers and the auditories of Paris, London, St. Petersburg, or Millan; and

the classic repertoire of the old masters, and. of course, thoroughly conversant, par excellence, with the lyric brillancy and passion of the modern school of composition.

Offers were immediately made to both these artists, but Curvelli's engagement at the Grand Opera in Paris procluded her accepting any other. Thanks, however, to direumatance of an entirely private nature, the agents of the managers succeeded in securing Madame De Lagrange, at a pecuniary sacrifice, however, which compels them to appeal openly, frankly, and, they trust, not hopelessly, to the public to assist them by a generously extended patronage, in bringing their present onerous undertaking to a satisfactory termination.

In conclusion, the managers beg to say that they do not anticipate a full house on the opening night of the season, for experience has unfortunately shown that without having recourse to, or bowing before, the omitation has been assented to the satisfactory termination.

In conclusion, the managers beg to say that they do not anticipate a full house on the opening night of the season, for experience has unfortunately shown that without having recourse to, or bowing before, the omitation which gave that rank—not a little of what may be termed "out-door influence" is required to awaken the carriosity of "the masses." Owing to the suddenness of har engagement, Madame De Lagrange cannot have the benefit of this "out-door influence," which consists of preparing the way by means of advertisements, portraits, critical notices, blographical sketches, early and continuous announcements through the medium of the press, &c., during the space of an entire year, and sometimes more, prior to the advent of the artist, as was the case with Jenny Lind, Madame Sontag, Madame Grisi. Signer Mario, &c. But the managers are prepared for, and fully rely upon the attendance of one of the Ingrest autience. The following the medium of the press, &c., during the space of an entire year, and sometimes that has ever been collected in this country, o

tatingly call upon the profile to entertain.

Madame Anna de Lagrange, by whom the Italian Opera season at Nibio's Gazden will be inaugurated, excluding the province person ose of the few instances on record, wherein high rank and noble birth are found allied with rare natural gifts of voice, and artistic excellence of the zoost distinguished character. The advantages of so dal position and supremacy in art are seldom found united for where fortune gives the one she concentrate.

united; for, where fortune gives the one, she generally denies the other. In the present instance, however, she has been doubly liberal in her gifts—bestowing on the recipient not only a mane great in the annals of the country which gave her birth, but talent of so high an order that, by its severies, additional instre a shed upon the name she bears.

the name she bears are she she with the bighest nobility of the Muscovite empire. But it is more with her fame and taken as a critice, than her eminest tools of or will feel interested in.

Madame 6e Lagrange is remowned throughout the continent of Europe as the greatest concert anger living—a department of her art in which she stants alone and tripling to conception of character, reminemt of art, and brilliancy of executive powers, she has manifested in all her operatic performance. Throughout lay, her singing has created the greatest furner among the critical diddsorfs, and stern professional judges of that operatic performance. Throughout lay, her singing has created the greatest furner among the critical and, who pronounced her vocakration matchless. The fearing orders of Paris and London, where she had to content against the prestige and rivalry of the many great young consistent which have been been successful to the see, while in Vienna-well income as the work of the see, while in Vienna-well income as the capture of the see and the strength of the Running strength of the Running strength of the Running strength of the Running strength of the foreign of the see and the strength of the Running strength of the content of the strength of the strength of the strength of